REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,991,830 issued to Beard et al. that describes a system for allowing a peripheral device to be inserted directly into a port of a computer system while the computer system is powered on in view of U.S. Patent 6,772,232 issued to Newell et al. As discussed previously, Beard requires that each peripheral device (referred to as a slave device) initiate a data transfer between the host device and the initiating peripheral (slave) device in contrast to the invention whereby it is the host device that initiates all actions. For example, at column 6 lines 48 - 52,

"A slave-to-host transfer is performed in the same manner as the host-to-slave transfer, **except that the slave device rather than the host device initiates the transfer** by checking for an idle interface..."

In contrast, the invention as recited in claim 1 relies upon only the host device to initiate all actions including those to which the various peripheral devices respond (and therefore do not initiate any actionable commands). More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly state this distinction, in particular claim 1 recites:

"A method of initializing devices connected to a communication bus by a host device, comprising:
(a) determining which devices, if any, are branded devices and which devices, if any, are unbranded devices by the host device;
if there are no branded devices,
(b) sending a first focus command by the host device to a first one of the devices connected to the communication bus as a focused device;
(c) in response to a probe command sent by the host device to the focused device, returning configuration information by the focused device; and
(d) branding the focused device by the host device based upon the confirmation information, **wherein the host device is the only initiating device and wherein the communication bus is a half duplex communication bus having a single shared data channel**".

Furthermore, paragraph [0015] of the specification states,

"All communications between host device 12 and peripheral devices 20-34 is initiated by host device 12. Devices only will transmit data in response to a command received from host device 12. In accordance with this aspect of the invention, communication bus 14 can share a single data channel (i.e., it is half duplex) without any two devices on the same comm bus port ever driving the bus at the same time, because only one device from each comm bus port will be responding to a host command at a time".

In this way, since it is the host that initiates and directs the entire process and only relies upon the peripheral devices to provide specific device information in response to a command provided by the host device, the communication bus is a half duplex communication bus having a single shared data line. In this way, there is no requirement for serial arbitration protocol as required by Beard (see column 6, line 6) since the host device controls all data transferred over the communication bus and no consideration of slave-to-host and host-to-slave interleaving which greatly simplifies the overall bus configuration requirements (for example, Beard relies upon a six line communication bus having separate slave data line, host data line, slave clock line, and host clock line whereas the invention relies upon a four channel communication bus configuration having only one data and one clock line).

Accordingly, the Applicant believes that claim 1 is not rendered obvious by Beard or Newell and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections thereof.

Independent claims 6 and 10 recite essentially the same limitations as claim 1 and are therefore also believed to be allowable over the cited art.
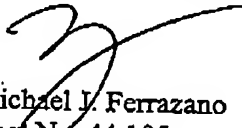
All dependent claims depend from claims 1 or 6 and are also believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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